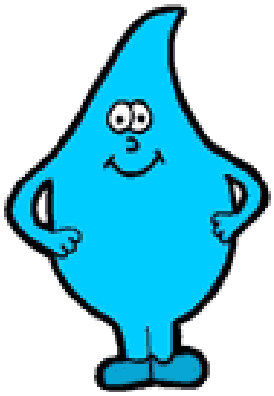

Week 1

Basic Water Facts -
To get you warmed up for the coming weeks

- Water is the only substance found on earth in three forms - solid, liquid, and gas
- A person can live more than month without food, but only about a week, depending on conditions, without water
- 66% of the human body is water; 75% of the human brain is water
- 75% of a chicken, 80% of a pineapple and 95% of a tomato is water
- A person must consume 2.5 quarts of water per day from all sources (drinking, eating) to maintain health.
- Water regulates the earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes wastes.
- It is possible for people today to drink water that was part of the dinosaur era.
- It takes an average of 39,090 gallons of water to manufacture a new car and its four tires.
- 62,600 gallons of water are needed to produce one ton of steel; 1500 gallons to process one barrel of beer; and 9.3 gallons to process one can of fruit or vegetables.
- On average, 50-70% of household water is used outdoors (watering lawns, washing cars).
- The average American uses over 100 gallons of water per day; the average residence uses over 100,000 gallons during a year.

- Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day.

Q. What is the Clean Water Act?

Q. What is the Safe Drinking Water Act?

Answers:

Q. What is the Clean Water Act?

A. Growing public awareness and concern for controlling water pollution led to enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. As amended in 1977, this law became commonly known as the **Clean Water Act.** The Act established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. It gave EPA the authority to implement pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. The **Clean Water Act** also continued requirements to set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters. The Act made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained under its provisions. It also funded the construction of sewage treatment plants under the construction grants program and recognized the need for planning to address the critical problems posed by nonpoint source pollution.

Subsequent enactments modified some of the earlier **Clean Water Act** provisions. Revisions in 1981 streamlined the municipal construction grants process, improving the capabilities of treatment plants built under the program. Changes in 1987 phased out the construction grants program, replacing it with the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, more commonly known as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This new funding strategy addressed water quality needs by building on EPA-State partnerships.

For more information about the CWA:
http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm

Q. What is the Safe Drinking Water Act?

The **Safe Drinking Water Act** was established to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. This law focuses on all waters actually or potentially designed for drinking use, whether from above ground or underground sources.

The Act authorized EPA to establish safe standards of purity and required all owners or operators of public water systems to comply with primary (health-related) standards. State governments, which assume this power from EPA, also encourage attainment of
secondary standards (nuisance-related).

Full text of the **Safe Drinking Water Act:**
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/300f.html